

# NOTTINGHAM INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

38 Forester Road, Thorneywood, Nottingham, NG3 6LP. Tel 0115 9505422

[www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.niha10.btinternet.co.uk)

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

### Autumn 2009

Following a successful Summer programme, Autumn is now approaching fast and we have an interesting range of events for members and their friends, details of which are contained in the following pages.

The Summer programme began in May with our annual evening of readings of poetry and prose with the theme of transport and industry, which was particularly successful and enjoyable this year. July began with a garden party hosted by Richard Potter, our Chairman, and his wife Marjorie in their very pleasant garden at Burton Joyce and the end of the month saw us visiting behind the scenes at the busy power signal box at Trent (for an account of this visit see page 2). Two weeks later, a group of us took part in an extremely interesting tour of Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, where we were able to see this gargantuan plant at close quarters. The final trip of the season was to have been a visit by coach to the Humber Bridge and the Battle of Britain memorial Flight on 4 September but, to meet the operational requirements of the Bridge Authority, this has had to be postponed until the Autumn and will now take place on Tuesday 22 September. **(There are still a few places left - see below for details)**

Finally, subscriptions for the coming year (2009/2010) are due in September and a renewal form may be found on page 3.

## Visit to Humber Bridge and Battle of Britain

### Memorial Flight - *New date: Tues. 22 September*

Enjoy a full day coach tour visiting two particularly interesting destinations - the Humber Bridge, for a visit to the control room and a presentation by the Major Projects Manager of the bridge, and RAF Conningsby, for the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and guided tour of the flight's maintenance facilities. We are assured that all aircraft are scheduled to be present on the day of our visit.

**Tuesday 22 September 2009 - Depart: Royal Concert Hall 8.45am**

**(Return expected around 19.00)**

**Members £20**

**Guests £22**

***There are a few places remaining and members and their guests will be very welcome - but act quickly - bookings must be received not later than Sat 12 September! - PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE 3***

## **Autumn Meetings**

The committee has now finalised the Autumn programme of meetings which, with the exception of the AGM, will be held in Nottingham Central Library and commence at 7.45pm. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, it has been necessary to reschedule the talk on battery powered vehicles from the previously listed date to November. Details will be sent out shortly before each meeting, but please note the dates in your diary now to avoid disappointment.

- Thurs 24 Sept**      **“Beautiful Britain by Train”**                      **Stephen Gay**  
Accompanied by his dog, Stephen Gay has travelled Britain photographing and recording the most celebrated railway routes.
- Thurs 22 Oct**      **“The life of Robert Blincoe”**                      **Peter Hammond**  
Robert Blincoe, an orphan sent at the age of seven to work in Gonalston Mill, will be the subject of this talk by local historian, Peter Hammond.
- Thurs 26 Nov**      **“Battery Powered Vehicles”**                      **Geoff Pike**  
Through his involvement with The Midland Magneto Company, the family firm, Geoff Pike gained wide experience with these vehicles and his interest continues into retirement. An interesting evening is guaranteed
- Thurs 5 Nov**      **Annual General Meeting**  
8pm, The King William IV Public House, Manvers St, Nottingham

## **Visit to Trent Signal Box**

On 29th July, 14 NIHA members visited the Trent Power Signal Box. This signal box has, since 1969, safely guided trains through a wide area from Loughborough to Clay Cross including the very busy station at Nottingham.

Things are changing however and the days of the signal box are numbered. All functions will be transferred to the new East Midlands control centre at Derby. Trent Box is split up into various “panels” each responsible for their own bit of track. As a matter of fact, some of these panels are blank, having already been transferred to the new centre. By 2011 Trent Signal box will be history and will no doubt be demolished.

However there is a relatively new addition. A panel was installed when the Robin Hood Line opened and much of this line is controlled from Trent Box.

The signal box also controls numerous road crossings watched by CCTV. And yes cars were seen trying to evade the barriers as they came down. Nothing too close whilst we were there however.

It was fascinating to watch the operator of the panel controlling Nottingham station. One came to appreciate just how busy the station is as the operator was on the go continually and never seemed to have a moments break. Paths were being set and the telephone kept ringing. “Put 2EXX in Platform N as the IMXX isn’t ready yet “. “ Can we hold the freightliner for just a few minutes?” Etc etc .....

In all a fascinating visit which we are very grateful to the staff of the signal box for

allowing. Whilst of course giving total priority to their jobs, all staff were very helpful answering questions willingly and cheerfully. - Paul Clark, Vice Chairman, NIHA

## **Trevor Fitchett**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Trevor Fitchett, a member of many years standing, who died in June shortly after his 62nd birthday and following a long struggle with leukaemia and other forms of cancer.

Trevor supported the association strongly and also gave valuable support to a number of other heritage organisations. His talents as a photographer and graphic designer being put to very effective use producing publicity material for, among others, the Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre, East Midlands Aeropark and the Newark Air Museum.

It was typical of Trevor that he remained optimistic, even while battling against serious illness, and continued to help when he could. Even though he was too ill to attend, it was he who made possible the Association's tour of the East Midlands Aeropark in May of last year.

Trevor is survived by his wife, Iris, four sons, two step sons, two step daughters, a sister and his brother Bill, who is also a member of the Association. On behalf of all members, the Chairman and committee extend their sympathy to the family. - D.A.

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### **HUMBER BRIDGE AND BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL FLIGHT**

**Tuesday 22 September 2009**

**Please return form to the Secretary - Final Date for Bookings 12 September 2009**

Please reserve places for ..... members (@20.00 each) and..... guests ( £22.00 each ).

Total payment enclosed £.....

Name: .....Address.....

e mail .....

tel.....

### **Subscriptions 2009 / 2010**

Subscriptions become due on 1 October and members who have not already done so are encouraged to renew early to ensure continuous membership.

The fee for the year, fixed by the AGM, is £10 for all members, whatever method of payment used. Unfortunately, we are no longer able offer to arrange payment by Standing Order, however any member wishing to pay by that method is welcome to make their own arrangement with their bank - **but please remember to inform the treasurer!**

Please find enclosed my / our cheque for £..... in payment of my / our membership fee for 2009/2010, at the rate of £10.00 per member

I also enclose a donation of £..... Total sum enclosed £.....

Name..... Address.....

Tel.....

Signature.....

**Return to: David Terry, 5 West View, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7LS**

**Please make all cheques payable to "NIHA"**